

Strategic Growth Council (SB 732)

Overview

Please note that direct quotes from the legislation are in italics. Major points are in bold.

(1) SGC Charge and Objectives

PRC 75125. The council shall do all of the following:

*(a) **Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated** to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), encourage sustainable land use planning, and revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner. **At a minimum, the council shall review and comment on the five-year infrastructure plan** developed pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 13100) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 3 of the Government Code **and the State Environmental Goals and Policy Report** developed pursuant to Section 65041 of the Government Code.*

*(b) **Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies** to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety, and is consistent with subdivisions (a) and (c) of PRC Section 75065.*

*(c) **Provide, fund, and distribute data and information** to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.*

*(d) **Manage and award grants and loans** to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to PRC Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129.*

PRC 75123. (b) The Council may sponsor conferences, symposia, and other public forums, to seek a broad range of public advice regarding local, regional, and natural resource planning, sustainable development, and strategies to reduce and mitigate climate change

(2) SGC Structure

i. Public Meetings

PRC 75123. (a) The council's meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

- All meetings must be noticed and have a posted agenda 10 calendar days in advance of the meeting. A meeting is defined as any time that a quorum of the Council members discuss or receive information on issues under the Council's jurisdiction whether in person, on the phone, or through email. If the same information is shared or discussed at different times by a majority of the Council's members, that is also considered a meeting under Bagley-Keene.

- When materials are provided to the Council either before or during a meeting, they must be made available to the public without delay.
- The public shall have an opportunity to address the Council on each agenda item before or during the discussion or consideration of that item.

ii. Council Membership

PRC 75121. (a) The Strategic Growth Council is hereby established in state government and it shall consist of the Director of State Planning and Research, the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and one member of the public to be appointed by the Governor.

iii. Public Member

The legislation requires that the public member: shall have a background in land use planning, local government, resource protection and management, or community development or revitalization (Section 75121. (a)).

iv. Council Chair

PRC 75122. The members of the council shall elect a chair of the council every two years.

v. Council Staffing and Funding

- *PRC 75122. (b) Staff for the council shall be reflective of the council's membership.*
- *PRC 75124. Of the funds made available pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (c) of PRC Section 75065, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated to the Resources Agency to be used in support of the council and its activities in accordance with this chapter.*

(3) Proposition 84 Funds

i. Funding Programs

SB 732 gives the Council authority to a distribute Proposition 84 funds (PRC Section 75065) in two areas. (Note that twenty million (\$20,000,000) of the urban greening has already been allocated.)

- (a) *The sum of ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000) shall be available for **urban greening projects** that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits. Priority shall be given to projects that provide multiple benefits, use existing public lands, serve communities with the greatest need, and facilitate joint use of public resources and investments including schools. Implementing legislation shall provide for planning grants for urban greening programs. Not less than \$20,000,000 shall be available for urban*

forestry projects pursuant to the California Urban Forestry Act, Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 4799.06) of Part 2.5 of Division 1.

- (c) *The sum of ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000) shall be available for **planning grants and planning incentives**, including revolving loan programs and other methods to **encourage the development of regional and local land use plans** that are designed to promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage greater infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and revitalize urban and community centers.*

ii. Funding Guidelines

- **Overall Requirements**

- ✓ PRC 75126 (b) All projects and plans must be consistent with the state's planning priorities (GC Section 65041.1) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a permanent basis consistent with AB 32 and any applicable regional plan.

- **Urban Greening Funds**

- ✓ PRC 75129. (a) The urban greening money shall be awarded to a city, county or nonprofit to be used for the preparation, adoption and implementation of an urban greening project that provides multiple benefits.
- ✓ PRC 75129. (e) Up to 25 percent of the moneys allocated may be used to award revolving loans or grants for the creation of urban greening plans to serve as master documents.

- **Local Planning Funds**

- ✓ PRC 75127. To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the Council shall award funds to a city or county for the preparation, adoption and implementation of city and county general plans, general plan elements, and any other plan, ordinance or policy.
- ✓ PRC 75128. To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the Council shall award funds to council of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, cities, counties, or joint powers authority to develop, adopt, and implement a regional plan or other planning instrument consistent with a regional plan.

iii. Council Administrative Responsibilities

PRC 75125. (d) The Council is charged with the following regarding the distribution and administration of grant monies:

- (1) Develop guidelines for awarding financial assistance, including criteria for eligibility and additional consideration.*

(2) Develop criteria for determining the amount of financial assistance to be awarded. The council shall award a revolving loan to an applicant for a planning project, unless the council determines that the applicant lacks the fiscal capacity to carry out the project without a grant. The council may establish criteria that would allow the applicant to illustrate an ongoing commitment of financial resources to ensure the completion of the proposed plan or project.

(3) Provide for payments of interest on loans made pursuant to this article. The rate of interest shall not exceed the rate earned by the Pooled Money Investment Board.

(4) Provide for the time period for repaying a loan made pursuant to this article.

(5) Provide for the recovery of funds from an applicant that fails to complete the project for which financial assistance was awarded. The council shall direct the State Controller to recover funds by any available means.

(6) Provide technical assistance for application preparation.

(7) Designate a state agency or department to administer technical and financial assistance programs for the disbursing of grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129.